



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

the civilization of the Scythians ; there is a general survey of the history of Syria down to the Moslem conquest, with a map ; side by side are long articles on Simon Magus and Simon Peter, the former of whom is one of the most curious figures in history ; war is represented by the article "Siege," and commerce by the articles "Shekel," "Trade and Commerce," and "Weights and Measures." There is also a sketch of the Biblical Hebrew text and the ancient versions.

In such a work, in which the various articles are written by independent specialists, it is impossible to eliminate the personal equation and give only what is accepted everywhere by everybody. Biblical criticism is a growing science, and a Biblical encyclopedia of to-day must give the views of competent scholars of to-day. Hence, doubtless, a certain one-sidedness, which, however, in the present instance, is generally mitigated by a wide citation of opposed views ; and this work, the present reviewer thinks, will be found to furnish the reader, in the main, satisfactory guidance in the points with which it has to do.

C. H. TOY.

*Histoire de France depuis les Origines jusqu'à la Révolution.*

(Publiée sous la Direction de M. Ernest Lavisse.) Tome I., 1. Tableau de la Géographie de la France. Par M. VIDAL DE LA BLACHE, Professeur à l'Université de Paris. (Paris : Hachette et Cie. 1903. Pp. 395.)

"L'HISTOIRE d'un peuple," says M. Vidal de la Blache, "est inséparable de la contrée qu'il habite. On ne peut se représenter le peuple grec ailleurs qu'autour des mers helléniques, l'Anglais, ailleurs que dans son île, l'Américain, ailleurs que dans les vastes espaces des États-Unis. Comment en est-il de même du peuple dont l'histoire s'est incorporée au sol de la France, c'est ce qu'on a cherché à expliquer dans ces pages" (introduction).

And yet, although the value of historical geography has been recognized from the time of Pliny and Strabo, it needs only a little reflection to remind us that it is a new science, along with the biological and physical sciences, whose methods of research were fixed and whose basal principles were established not later than the second half of the last century. In France the value of historical geography was first officially recognized in the arrêté of May 15, 1818, an act due to the initiative of Royer-Collard, which prescribed equal instruction in history and geography for each class from the fifth to the rhetoric grade. One need only glance over the pages of Sismondi, Barante, Anquetil, Lacratelle, Rapin, and Mezeray to discover how great a revolution has been wrought, both in the writing and in the teaching of history, since their time. Michelet and Guizot broke away from the old traditions ; but Guizot's primary interest was in the history of institutions, and Michelet was a symbolist who yet felt deeply the reality and seriousness of life. With Michelet moral forces were the dominant interest. He appreciated the influence

of climate and topography, but, after all, his perceptions in this particular were more temperamental than intellectual or scientific. He *felt* effects. Michelet's demonstrations are often defective and unscientific, though they are always brilliant. Who that has read those nature-studies of his last years, "La Montagne" and "La Mer," or better still, the marvelous third book of the *Histoire de France*, has not perceived this?

Times have changed. To-day the proper groundwork of true historical study is an accurate geography; and by this very much is implied. Historical geography is a complex science (pp. 8, 60). Beginning with the influence upon France both physically and commercially of great factors like the Mediterranean, the oceans, and the Channel, M. Vidal de la Blache passes to the consideration of the ethnic foundations of the French people. The great highways of migration in central Europe from prehistoric times are traced: first, by the valley of the Danube; second, through middle Germany, Picardy, and Champaign, into France; third, along the seaboard of the North Sea by way of Frisia and Flanders (p. 31). The influence exercised by the vast forests existing in Europe in the primitive era is described by a wealth of illustration. The Black Forest, as we know it, the Böhmer-Wald, the forests of Fontainebleau and Compiègne, with many others, are but fragments of the mighty wilderness which covered the face of Europe in years long vanished away. The division of both France and Germany into the feudal provinces of the ninth and tenth centuries was greatly influenced by the forests. Bohemia was thus separated from Bavaria, Franconia from Swabia, Anjou from Brittany, Saintonge from Poitou, and every English school-boy knows the history of the Andreas-Wald between Kent and Sussex (pp. 31-33, 131-133). It is a striking fact that Lorraine, perhaps more than any province of Germany or France, has been historically influenced by natural causes. The curious separate, or rather double, identity of Lorraine is seen to be due to deeper causes than race-rivalry, or position as a border province between two great nations. The limits of Lorraine are of nature's making much more than of men's or of nations' device (pp. 33, 198-199, 204-208), and the existence of a Lorraine type of mankind in this region is older even than the settlement of Verdun or the Treaty of Meerssen (p. 205).

The story of the gradual formation of agricultural zones in the heart of the ancient woods, the beginnings of a civilization, stimulated to industrial activity and invention by the discovery of iron in Moravia and of tin in Brittany and Cornwall, fill some fascinating pages (36-39). It is a step farther from the consideration of such things to that of varieties of soil and climate and the influence exercised by them (Part I., Ch. 4). Then a few paragraphs upon the influence of the topography of France upon its commerce close the first portion of the work, in which the *ensemble* of France — "la personnalité géographique" — is treated of as nature formed the country, unmodified by man.

A detailed regional description of France follows, M. Vidal de la Blache dividing France into ten grand divisions. This study is method-

ically done. First the physical development of the region is described, then the gradual growth of historical phenomena, and the intimate association of geography and history is made manifest. These pages are interesting. To read them is like watching a sculptor molding the lifeless clay into the human shape and endowing the inert mass with the expression of the soul. The earth lives; the elemental is humanized.

Many questions are answered here which may have perplexed the student of history until now, and some vivid suggestions are made. The commercial greatness of Ghent and Bruges and Ypres is foreshadowed in the "making" of this portion of Europe. Why Picardy and Flanders became "the cockpit of Europe" is answered here. Belgium and Holland and Luxembourg have to be neutral states by the ordinance of nature as well as because the dictum of Europe so declares. The balance of power is demonstrable in terms of physical geography as well as in terms of international law.

Naturally, the upgrowth of Paris fills a large space. M. Vidal de la Blache finds the greatness of Paris prefigured in its fortunate environment (p. 85). This prosperity was increased by the advantageous connection of the Parisian basin with Flanders, through the valley of the Somme. But politics were capricious in the tenth century. We are reminded that "Nous sommes habitués à faire pivoter notre histoire autour de Paris: pendant longtemps elle a pivoté entre Reims, Laon, Soissons et Noyon" (p. 106). The coincidence of physical and political geography ultimately won in the struggle, but why did Paris, and not Rouen, become the capital of the region? From the time of Strabo the situation of Rouen had been regarded as a peculiarly fortunate one: "sa position ressemblerait à celle de Londres" (p. 178). The answer is found in the discovery of the strategic importance of the island of Paris during the incursions of the Northmen, and indeed long after the creation of the Norman duchy. Mr. Freeman long ago demonstrated this statement in his essay upon "The Early Sieges of Paris," but the depth and breadth of the geological and other physical facts become doubly conclusive now.

The Beauce is the natural link between France north and France south of the Loire, and across its low plains we are taken to southern France. The description of the transition is like a painting by Meissonier. One knows not which to admire more — the picture as a painting, or the admirable technique, delicacy of touch, and accuracy of detail (pp. 273-274). Two observations in the part devoted to southern France seem noteworthy: first, the absence of urban life in Haute Auvergne in Roman times, although the Romans were "grands créateurs de vie urbaine," and the great influence in these regions of the medieval church (p. 295); second, the influence of physiography upon the existence and persistence of the little state of Béarn, the suppression of whose institutions von Ranke regretted. There is comfort, though, in the reflection that the unity of France was predestined by physical geography as well as asserted by an inexorable monarchy (p. 375).

The methods of Michelet and of M. Vidal de la Blache were contrasted in the beginning of this review. They are also to be compared. Michelet's style may be the more captivating and the play of his imagination be ever a rapture to his reader, but M. Vidal de la Blache writes in an alluring way, and at times is eloquent and poetic. The description of the west coast of Normandy (p. 326) is an etching in words.

This volume is the ripe fruit of thirty years of study. Karl Ritter's letters and even the English *Consular Reports* have been quarried for knowledge. Some time ago the reviewer picked up a little pamphlet by M. Vidal de la Blache, a lecture delivered at the opening of the course in history and geography at the University of Nancy. It is interesting to compare it with the present work. Reading it in the light of this volume, one feels the little brochure to be a prophecy and a promise now so admirably fulfilled. It is a pity, however, that some such work as Himly's book upon the territorial formation of Germany might not conclude this series of volumes, as the one now under review inaugurates the series. From the nature of his subject M. Vidal de la Blache cannot enlarge upon the historical geography of France. He only suggests the lines of development. All the information of a geographo-political nature now scattered throughout the whole requires to be compressed and crystallized into a volume which shall portray the territorial formation of France; the formation of the feudal provinces; the influence of the Seine and the Loire, as bearers of commerce, as boundaries, and as factors in the time of war, as notably the case with the Loire in the sixteenth century. The history of the "natural frontiers" of France is one yet imperfectly written, although M. Sorel is the author of a brief but excellent account (*Révolution Française*, I. 254 ff.). There are sixty-four maps or diagrams scattered through the book, which do much to illuminate the text. It is to be regretted, however, that the maps have not been printed on paper of a harder and smoother surface than the ordinary book-paper. For the large general map alone is proper paper used. As a consequence it is the only one which is clear. The others appear blurred, and fine details are impossible.

JAMES WESTFALL THOMPSON.

*Histoire de France depuis les Origines jusqu'à la Révolution.* (Publiée sous la Direction de M. Ernest Lavisse.) Tome II., 1. Le Christianisme, les Barbares, Mérovingiens et Carolingiens. Par C. BAYET, G. PFISTER, et A. KLEINCLAUSZ. (Paris: Hachette et Cie. 1903. Pp. 439.)

THE second volume of the *Histoire de France* is not up to the standard of some other volumes of the series. First of all, it lacks the unity of most of the others, for it is of triple authorship. M. Bayet writes of the evangelization of Gaul, of the manners and customs of the early Germans, of the history of the Visigoths and Burgundians, and of the Franks down to the death of Clovis, besides contributing a chapter upon